

**Remarks**

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-11, 13, 15 and 18 are allowed while claims 12, 14 and 16 are rejected and claim 17 is objected to. Claim 17 has been amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner so that claim 17 depends off allowed claim 11 while new claim 19 incorporates the limitations into claim 17 of independent claim 12. Claim 14 is amended to correct a typographical error in the previous response.

**Rejection under 35 USC 102(a)**

Claims 14 and 16 depend off claim 12. The Examiner has rejected these claims because of a printed journal publication dated 3 months before the priority date of the application. To establish that this was after the date of the invention of the present claimed method, applicants submit a 35 C.F.R 131 declaration providing evidence of conception of the method of the rejected claims prior to November 1999.

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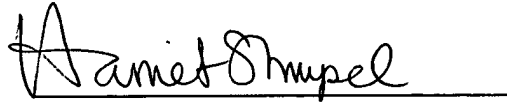
**Conclusion**

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for immediate allowance. Early and favorable consideration leading to prompt issuance of this Application is earnestly solicited.

We petition for a three extension of time to file a response. A check in the amount of \$ 635 is enclosed, covering the fees for the extension and additional claims. Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0740.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harriet Strimpel", is written over a horizontal line.

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